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For Immediate Release

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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR RICE REACTS TO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S FINANCIAL REFORM PLAN**

March 25, 2009...Milwaukee, WI – Following today's announcement of County Executive Scott Walker's Plan for Financial Reform, Milwaukee County Supervisor Joseph Rice issued the following statement:

"The County Executive has prescribed a hefty dose of fiscal medicine to address the county's grim long term financial diagnosis. While it may not be pleasant, it's high time the county act upon the dire symptoms and seek meaningful cures.

I concur with the assessment of the Public Policy Forum that county elected officials have for too long relied upon quick-fix, band-aid solutions. We need to acknowledge that the status quo is broken and that more far-reaching alternatives, albeit unpleasant ones, must be developed.

The County Executive has outlined a series of bold steps in employee compensation, service delivery, utilization of county assets, and budget process reforms. While I will seek to minimize the impact of these reforms on the county employee workforce, without significant changes the county's financial viability is in question.

I applaud the County Executive for setting forth a road map to put the county on the path to recovery and urge my colleagues on the county board to heed the warnings of the Public Policy Forum and others to abandon the short-term fix mentality."